

REMARKS

Claim 1-3, 7, 8, 14 and 15 have been canceled, without prejudice. Claims 4-6 and 9-13 remain pending. Claims 4, 6, 9 and 13 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the present application is requested.

As an initial matter, Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 9-12 include allowable subject matter. Claim 9 has been amended to be rewritten in independent form. Claims 10-12 depend (directly or indirectly) from claim 9. Accordingly, claims 9-12 should now be allowed.

Claim 2, 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 2, 7 and 8 have been canceled, without prejudice. Thus, the rejection of claims 2, 7 and 8 should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,101,403 to Rumbaugh. Claims 1, 3 and 14 have been canceled, without prejudice. Claim 13 has been amended to be dependent on claim 9. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1, 3, 13 and 14 should now be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 4-6 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over the Rumbaugh patent. Claims 2 and 15 have been canceled, without prejudice. Claim 5 and 6 depend from claim 9. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 5 and 6 should be withdrawn.

All issues raised by the Examiner have been addressed. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration

and allowance of the present application are therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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